

NIH CHILD CARE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2003

Building 45 – Conference Room C1-C2

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Janet Austin, Deborah Chew, Lynn Hudson, Susan Huntley, Susan Koester, Barbara Murphy, Kim Plascjak, Susan Reider, Mary Ellen Savarese, Tim Tosten

Members Absent: Valerie Hurt, Juanita Mildenberg, Qin Ryan, Corliss Taylor, Wendy Thompson

Liaisons in Attendance:

ChildKind, Inc.: Lee Ettman, Wendy Sharp; POPI: Mary Haas, Martina Vogel-Taylor;

ECDC: Anne Schmitz, Beth Levy

Guests:

Sarah Friedman, NICHD; Vi Black, NCI Fellows

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mary Ellen Savarese welcomed members and guests.

- Outgoing Member Recognition: Tim Tosten presented Susan Huntley with a Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions toward improving the quality of child care provided at the NIH while serving on the NIH Child Care Board. He also read a letter from Mr. Stephen Ficca, Director, Office of Research Services to Cristina Bruce, Director, Office of Diversity and Employment Program, NCI, expressing his appreciation for making it possible for the Board to benefit from Susan's membership. Wendy Thompson will be leaving the Board and NIH this month and will receive a certificate of appreciation.

II. Presentation of NICHD Child Care Study – Presented by Sarah Friedman:

The Board was please to have as their guest Sara Friedman, who is one of the principal investigators on the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development, give a presentation on recent findings. A summary of her remarks follows these minutes.

The Board thanked Sara Friedman for sharing NIHCD's findings and invited her to attend future meetings to update members on the continuing study.

III. Election of Officers: Susan Reider, as Chair of the Membership Committee, presented the candidates for officer positions. Corliss Taylor has accepted nomination as Chair. Janet Austin has accepted nomination as Assistant to the Chair (the term Vice-Chair is already proscribed in the Charter). There were no additional nominations. A vote was taken and the nominees were approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes: Janet Austin, acting for the Chair, called for a vote to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2002 meeting.

V. Board Annual Report: Mary Ellen Savarese provided members with a draft outline of the Board's Annual Report. After review and discussion the Board voted to make the following recommendations in its 2002-2003 Annual Report to the NIH Director:

- 1) Create a child care tuition subsidy program for lower-income NIH employees.
- 2) Advocate for a legislative change to permit NIH trainees to have priority enrollment in NIH child care centers.
- 3) Support additional child care space and services to meet NIH child care needs.
- 4) Confirm the importance of child care and promote accurate and coordinated information on the availability and affordability of child care for potential NIH employees and parents.

The Board has voted to approve the following priorities for FY 2003-2004:

- 1) Take steps to advance the creation and implementation of a Child Care Subsidy Program for lower-income NIH employees.
- 2) Continue to actively address findings obtained from the 2001 NIH Child Care Programs Needs Assessment by:
 - Improving coordination among existing programs.
 - Promoting child care and parenting resources to the NIH community.
 - Exploring additional child care resources to serve the NIH community.
- 3) Continue efforts to ensure that the NIH Child Care Board reflects the diversity of the NIH workforce.
- 4) Provide input and guidance to the ORS Child Care Program on issues and services, including the development of additional facilities and programs.
- 5) Provide support to the NIH in accomplishing the recommendations contained in the report.

The Annual Report will reflect these decisions and will be completed by the Committee over the summer. Final copies of the report will be sent to all Board members before the September meeting.

VI. Board Updates:

- Membership and Election of Officers: Susan Reider informed members that along with Susan Huntley's departure from the Board, Maureen Gormley and Wendy Thompson have also submitted their resignations. Corliss Taylor and Kim Plascjak's requests for re-appointment to the Board were approved. The Membership Committee will conduct recruitment efforts over the summer. Information and recommendations of the Committee will be forwarded to all Board members for approval. The final Board recommendations will be forwarded to Stephen Ficca, Director, Office of Research Services in August for appointment.
- Parenting Festival: Alisa Green, Work/Life Center informed members that the Parenting Festival was a huge success. She estimated that approximately 400 people attended the festival; more than double the expected amount. Of those 400 attendees, 245 evaluation forms were completed and submitted. Alisa shared with members a compiled summary of the evaluation responses provided by participants.

Many attendees commented on how friendly and approachable all of the exhibitors were and had wished the event were scheduled for more than 3 hours. Additional comments encouraged the board to hold this event again. Comments received back from the exhibitors were also very positive. The Board agreed that they would plan to have the Parenting Festival again next May.

- Board meeting Schedule for 2003 – 2004: Mary Ellen Savarese provided members with a list of proposed meeting dates starting in September. Meeting will continue to be held on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and scheduled around all holidays and school closures. The proposed meeting dates for 2003 – 2004 will be: September 18, 2003, October 30, 2003, December 11, 2003, January 22, 2004, March 4, 2004, April 22, 2004, and June 10, 2004.

VII. Other Business:

- Mary Ellen Savarese distributed to members a one page summary taken from the most recent quarterly report provided by from LifeWork Strategies, Inc. on the status of the NIH Waiting List Management Program. As of April 22, 2003, there were 1,082 (381 children under the age of 3) children on the waiting list for the NIH Child Care Programs. This information along with other statistics will be included in the Board's Annual Report.
- She also updated member on the expansion project at POPI scheduled to begin in July. POPI will be adding 40 additional children (infants, toddlers and two year olds) to their current program. The NIH's goal is to have these spaces available by September 2003. There are some parents of children enrolled in POPI who are opposed to the expansion because it requires modifications to existing classrooms. These changes will create smaller rooms and some parents are concerned about impact on program. Several Board members have received letters about this issue. The Board agreed to support the NIH efforts to increase the number of child care spaces on campus through this renovation project.
- Alisa Green informed members that space has been identified at 6705 Democracy Boulevard for a lactation room. There are currently 17 lactation rooms available on and off campus.
- Members were given a flyer to post within their offices to use as a recruitment tool to solicit new Board members over the summer.
- Pamela Jenkins recognized Janet Austin, Kim Plascjak, Susan Reider, Mary Haas, Mary Ellen Savarese, and Tim Tosten with Golden Star Award Certificates and gifts for their perfect attendance at Board meetings this year.

VIII. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2003
Building 45 – C1/C2**

Prepared by:
Pamela Jenkins
July 1, 2003

Does Amount of Time Spent in Child Care Predict Socioemotional Adjustment During the Transition to Kindergarten?

Author: NICHD Early Child Care Research Network
Presented by Sarah Friedman

In the past 25 years, increasing numbers of children have experienced routine nonmaternal care, often beginning in the first year of life. Parents, professionals, and policy-makers have hotly debated the possible effects of early care on children's social and intellectual development. In response, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development launched the NICHD Study of Early Child Care in 1991. Study investigators have been following more than 1,000 children from geographically, economically, and ethnically diverse families from the time of birth into the school years.

We studied several features of child care: the age at which the child began care; the total amount of care received over the infant and preschool years; the types of care, that is, whether it was provided by relatives, home providers, or centers; the quality of the care giving-whether caregivers were sensitive and stimulating; and the stability of care over time. We also collected detailed information about the children's family environments.

In this paper we report how child-care experiences during the infancy, toddler and preschool years are related to children's social competence and behavior problems when they were 4 ½ years old and when they reached kindergarten. We measured children's social behavior by having both parents and teachers complete standardized ratings of social competence and behavior problems and by observing children interacting with other children.

Across their first 4.5 years of life, 16% of the children spent an average of 0-9 hours per week in care, 38% spent 10-29 hours, 36% spent 30-35 hours, and 10% spent more than 45 hours a week in regular nonmaternal care.

The results indicated that even though the ratings of the majority of the children's problem behaviors are within the expected range for children of the same ages, the more time children had spent in nonmaternal child care across the first 4.5 years of life, the more adults reported conflict with the child and such problem behaviors as aggression, disobedience, and assertiveness. This was especially true of reports by child-care providers and teachers. The association linking time in child care and problem behavior was limited in magnitude. It was greater, however, than that between infant temperament or maternal depression and problem behavior. It occurred across all family types and all types and quality of care. We did not find much evidence of a critical period or that infant care was more important than care after infancy. There was no obvious threshold of hours above which problem behaviors were especially likely to emerge. Only 12% of the entire sample met the criterion for showing high (but not clinically-disturbed) levels of problem behavior. Nevertheless, the more time children spent in nonmaternal care across their first 4.5 years of life, the more likely they were to be in this group (see attached chart).

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Links between family characteristics and children's behavior were generally larger than those between time spent in child care and problem behavior. Fewer behavior problems and more competent social behavior characterized children whose parents had more education, whose families had more income, and whose mothers were more sensitive in their parenting.

The NICHD study is correlational. Even though we took into account many more family characteristics and features of child care than had earlier studies, we cannot make firm statements about whether child care experiences *cause* increases in assertiveness, aggression, or disobedience. The investigators are continuing to follow this sample to determine whether the associations reported here are limited to the transition to school or remain as children progress through their school careers.